

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 IO-13 PRS-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO AMEMBASSY MBABANE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0845

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2529

MBABANE FOR AMB NORLAND

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH BC

SUBJ: RHODESIA: US ROLE IN CARVER-CHAND NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 246476

1. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING CABLE:

2. QUOTE: IN SOUNDINGS AT THE UN, WE HAVE RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM FRONT LINE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THEY FAVOR US PARTICIPATION IN THE CARVER-CHAND TALKS WITH THE PARTIES TO THE RHODESIAN DISPUTE; AND IN HIS TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY, GENERAL OBSANJO WAS EXTREMELY POSITIVE IN THIS REGARD. IN VIEW OF THIS, AND BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL, WE ARE INCLUDED TO HAVE A USG OFFICIAL ACCOMPANY THE CARVER-CHAND TEAM. THE SECRETARY AND DICK MOOSE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT STEVE LOW WOULD BE THE BEST PERSON FOR THIS.

3. BEFORE WE MAKE A DECISION ON US PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING THE BEST MEANS (IE, ACTIVE, OBSERVING, OR LIAISON), WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS. YOU MAY WISH TO SOUND OUT HOST GOVERN-
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MENT BEFORE MAKING A JUDGMENT. HOWEVER, MOOSE WILL BE IN LONDON OCT 14 FOR TALKS WITH FCO AND WITH CARVER, AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS BY IMMEDIATE CABLE. THUS YOU MIGHT GIVE HIM YOUR VIEWS BEFORE BEING ABLE TO TALK TO HOST GOVERNMENT. IF, IN THAT EVENT, YOUR JUDGMENT IS NOT BORNE OUT BY LATER DISCUSSION, YOU COULD LET HIM KNOW OF HOST GOVERNMENT REACTION. END QUOTE.

4. JOE LEGWAILA HAVING JUST DEPARTED WITH H.E. FOR SEROWE, I WAS ABLE ONLY TO REACH MOGAMI AT MIN EXT AFF. HE SAID THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE THE QUESTION OF US PARTICIPATION IN THE CARVER-CHAND TALKS, AND WHAT FORM IT MIGHT TAKE, HAD NOT BEEN RAISED WITHIN GOB. HE SAID HE THOUGHT REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT "EVERYONE" JUST ASSUMED USG WOULD FIND SOME WAY TO TAKE PART IN THE TALKS, AND THAT THEREFORE US PARTICIPATION WAS A NON-ISSUE. THIS IS RATHER SLIM PICKINGS, I KNOW, BUT IT MAY BE OF SOME USE AT LEAST IN REINFORCING STATEMENT IN PARA 1 OF REFTTEL CONCERNING FAVORABLE ATTITUDE OF FRONTLINE STATES TOWARD US PARTICIPATION.

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